



# PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

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### Saving Lives, Fighting Addiction

In response to sharp increase in the number of overdose deaths in Maryland, Governor O'Malley has issued an [Executive Order](#) creating the Governor's Overdose Prevention Council. The purpose of the Council is to establish a coordinated, statewide plan to reduce the number of unintentional overdoses in every jurisdiction in Maryland.

The Council will work on two fronts: public health and public safety. Educating the public about the epidemic of opioid overdoses is one step. Another is to ensure that first responders and law enforcement officers are trained and equipped to administer naloxone, also known as Narcan. This prescription drug immediately counteracts the effects of opioids and can save lives. Already, law enforcement officers have used naloxone to save lives.



Naloxone Hydrochloride

*Photo courtesy Anne Arundel Co. Police Department*

On June 17, an Annapolis police officer who had ten minutes earlier completed training on the use of naloxone responded to a call of a possible overdose. The young man was unconscious, not breathing, and turning blue. The officer administered naloxone in the form of a nasal spray, and the young man was revived. The Annapolis Fire Department arrived and took him to the hospital, where he was reported to be conscious and alert. [You can learn more about naloxone here.](#)

Since 2010, Maryland, along with other states, has seen a rising number of deaths caused by alcohol and drug overdoses. Many of these deaths have involved opioids, a class of drugs that includes heroin and prescription drugs such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, and other drugs. Heroin overdoses alone account for an 88 percent increase in overdose deaths in Maryland since 2011.

Under Governor O'Malley's leadership, the state has added drug and alcohol overdose deaths to the Administration's 16 strategic goals, and is currently working to [drive down overdose deaths by 20 percent by 2015](#). Governor O'Malley has also directed the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to review the availability of treatment and recovery services in its facilities, and consider ways to expand access to treatment.

"Maryland is more committed than ever to tackling the scourge of substance abuse afflicting so many of our neighbors, friends, and family members," said the Governor. "By working together to lift our fellow Marylanders out of addiction, we will ensure that we continue to keep our neighborhoods safe, and protect the health of our loved ones."

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### Governor's Commission to Reform Maryland's Pretrial System Begins Its Work

The Governor's Commission to Reform Maryland's Pretrial System held its first session on June 26 in Annapolis. Established by Governor O'Malley's [Executive Order](#), the Commission is made up of 23 members representing government stakeholders involved in the criminal justice system.

In 2012, the Commission to Study the Laws and Policies Relating to Representation of Indigent Criminal Defendants by the Office of the Public Defender recommended that Maryland implement a validated risk assessment tool and establish a statewide pretrial system in Maryland. As a way to move forward on those recommendations, [Governor O'Malley charged the Commission](#) to examine best practices that are used in states throughout the country, and assess the use of an objective risk assessment tool to inform pretrial release determinations.

“Our goal is to create overall reform of the pre-trial release system,” said Tammy Brown, GOCCP’s Executive Director and a member of the panel. “The Commission will work to create a system that will standardize the process to ensure that people are treated fairly and equitably in every jurisdiction in Maryland.”

To learn more about the Commission, visit its webpage at <http://goccp.maryland.gov/pretrial>.

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## Driving Down Violent Crime in Maryland



Senator Brian Frosh, Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, Governor O'Malley, State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks, Police Chief Mark Magaw, and Sheriff Melvin C. High.

On June 2, Governor O'Malley highlighted the success of the Administration and its partners in driving down violent crime in the state, and pledged further progress against violent crime by driving it down 20 percent by 2018.

“Working with the brave men and women of law enforcement, we’ve driven violent crime down to thirty year lows,” said the Governor. “We are going to continue doing everything we can – together with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners – to keep our neighborhoods and families safe.”

The Governor made his comments at a press conference held in Largo, Maryland. He was joined by Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, Col. Marcus Brown of the Maryland State Police, Prince George's County State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks and other community partners and law enforcement officials.

At the event, the Governor also released a document, [Governing for Results: Improving Public Safety](#), detailing efforts to achieve the Administration's three public safety goals.

“In Maryland, we chose to take real action to reduce gun violence by passing commonsense legislation that keeps firearms out of the hands of criminals, improves our mental health system, and makes our streets and our schools safer,” said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. “While these reforms mark great progress in our effort to end gun violence, there is still work left to be done. We must renew our commitment to working together to end the violence that has plagued too many of our communities.”

A major component of the Administration’s work to drive down violent crime was the passage of [Firearm Safety Act](#). The new law requires individuals to have their fingerprints taken and undergo a criminal background check to receive a license for a firearm. The press conference was held in the Largo offices of a private company that provides fingerprinting services.

MSP records show that the number of gun homicides across Maryland this year dropped by 21 percent between January 1 and April 30, compared to the same time in 2013. During the same time, the number of non-fatal shootings in Maryland dropped 12 percent.

[You can read more about the O’Malley-Brown Administration’s goal to reduce violent crime in Maryland by clicking here.](#)

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## Governor’s Conference on Combating Human Trafficking Held in May

[Declaring that we must continue to fight to protect the human rights of those confined, oppressed, and exploited](#), Governor O’Malley welcomed nearly 500 people to the third annual Governor’s Conference on Combating Human Trafficking on May 19th. Participants discussed the progress government and nonprofit partners have made to stop the unconscionable practice of human trafficking, help its victims, and further that progress.

Held at the Catonsville campus of the Community College of Baltimore County, the conference featured 56 presentations with speakers from California, Georgia, Virginia and Pennsylvania as well as Maryland. Workshops included Survivors’ Next Steps; The Importance of Prevention and Intervention; Human Trafficking: A Law Enforcement Perspective; Male and Transgender Victims of Human Trafficking: What We Should Know; and How to Develop a Human Trafficking Task Force.



Governor O’Malley opens the Human Trafficking Conference.

Maryland and its federal and non-public partners will continue a collaborative, victim-centered approach to rescue and provide services for victims of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST). In addition, the State has expanded its efforts to include the creation of localized Human Trafficking Task Forces in Prince George’s and Howard Counties and the Eastern Shore. GOCCP’s Training Unit held a Human Trafficking Awareness & Training session in Easton this summer, and will hold a similar training in Western Maryland in October.

The issue of male victims of human trafficking is also being addressed. The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) is using its human trafficking assessment tool at its male facility, the Hickey School, as well as its two women’s facilities, Waxter and Noyes.

“Our work is not traditional search and rescue. It requires relationship, perseverance, and sacrifice,” said Governor O’Malley. “In our ‘Free State’ of Maryland, may we endeavor to become modern abolitionists and pave the road to human dignity always.”

This year’s Governor’s Conference on Combating Human Trafficking was sponsored by GOCCP and the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, with financial support from the Office of Victim Services within the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

[To access materials from Maryland’s Human Trafficking Conferences, click here.](#)

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# Milestones

## Governor O'Malley Signs Bills Designed to Protect Maryland Families



Governor O'Malley signs House Bill 309 into law.

Governor O'Malley has signed legislation designed to reinforce Maryland's fight against domestic violence by removing barriers that have made it difficult for survivors of domestic violence from taking the steps they need to keep themselves and their families safe. House Bill 307/Senate Bill 333 changes the standard of the burden of proof to allow Courts to issue a final peace or protective order from "clear and convincing evidence" to a "preponderance of the evidence." [Both Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown said that this bill, along with two others](#), offer important protections to victims of domestic violence.

House Bill 309/Senate Bill 334 makes it easier for victims of domestic violence to obtain a final permanent protective order by making changes in existing law. It also adds second-degree assault to the list of crimes that qualify a petitioner for a permanent final protective order. House Bill 306/Senate Bill 337 provides for increased penalties when a person knows or reasonably should know that a child of at least two years old is present in a residence when a crime of violence is committed. All three of these bills will become effective on October 1, 2014.

"These three bills are essential to the State's efforts to curtail domestic violence, hold abusers accountable, and provide relief and protection to victims," said Tammy M. Brown, the Executive Director of GOCCP. "This is sensible legislation that works toward breaking the cycle of violence and abuse that can occur when offenders are not held accountable, and children are witnesses to violence in their homes."

Two other bills that fight domestic violence were also supported by the O'Malley-Brown Administration:

### **House Bill 647/Senate Bill 434: Peace Orders and Protective Orders**

Ensures that protective and peace orders will remain in effect when victims file for extensions. Effective October 1, 2014.

### **House Bill 352/Senate Bill 369: Peace Orders and Protective Orders – Penalties – Second or Subsequent Offenses**

Makes violations for failing to comply with an interim, a temporary, or a final protective order a prior offense for the purpose of determining penalties for a second or subsequent offense for failing to comply with an interim, a temporary, or a final peace order. Effective October 1, 2014.

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Other public safety bills signed into law by the Governor include:

### **House Bill 701/Senate Bill 454: Criminal Law – Child Kidnapping for the Purpose of Committing a Sexual Crime – Penalty**

Creates a 25 year felony for perpetrators who persuade or entice a child under 16 from their home, and then secrete and harbor them for purposes of any sex crime, including age-based sex crimes. The new law provides prosecutors with an additional tool to combat human trafficking and other sex crimes against children. Effective October 1, 2014.

### **House Bill 175/Senate Bill 206: Criminal Law – Contraband – Telecommunication Devices – Penalty**

Prohibits a person from attempting to deliver a telecommunication device to a person detained in a place of confinement, increases the penalty for an offense committed under the section, and provides for consecutive sentencing. The bill adds chargers and SIM cards as prohibited items that a person may not deliver to an inmate. Effective October 1, 2014.

**House Bill 1109: Criminal Procedure – Search Warrants – Procedures**

Provides for the electronic (fax or email) issuance of search warrants and for the judge and applicant to discuss the warrant over the telephone or by video conference. Effective October 1, 2014.

**House Bill 416: Criminal Procedure – Limited Immunity – Alcohol-or Drug-Related Medical Emergencies**

Provides a specified person who seeks medical assistance for a person experiencing an alcohol- or a drug-related overdose immunity from civil liability or criminal prosecution in limited circumstances. Effective October 1, 2014.

**House Bill 1245/Senate Bill 922: Crime Victim and Crime Victim's Representative – Electronic Notification**

Authorizes a crime victim or a crime victim's representative to follow Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) system protocol to request specified notices in an electronic form. The bill also provides authorization for the prosecuting attorney and the clerk of the circuit court or juvenile court to provide notices in an electronic form. Effective July 1, 2014.

**Senate Bill 223: Crimes – Threat of Mass Violence**

Prohibits a person from threatening to commit, or threatening to cause to be committed, a crime of violence that would place five or more people at substantial risk of death or serious physical injury. Effective October 1, 2014.

**House Bill 781/Senate Bill 460: Criminal Law – Person in a Position of Authority – Sexual Offenses With a Minor**

Expands the definition of a person in a position of authority for the purpose of prosecution under the fourth degree sex offense statute. This bill closed some significant gaps in laws addressing persons in authority who sexually exploit teenagers in their care. Effective October 1, 2014.

**House Bill 559/Senate Bill 818: State Government Human Trafficking Address Confidentiality Program**

Establishes a program similar to the current address confidentiality program for domestic violence victims for those who are victims of human trafficking. Effective October 1, 2014.

**House Bill 957/Senate Bill 710: Impaired Driving – Repeat Offenders – Penalties**

Mandates certain penalties for a third or subsequent offense for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Effective October 1, 2014.

**House Bill 286/Senate Bill 248: Criminal Law – Use of Handgun in Crime of Violence or Felony – Statute of Limitations**

Establishes that the statute of limitations for the prosecution of using a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence or felony is the same as the statute of limitations for the underlying crime, rather than one year. Effective October 1, 2014.

**House Bill 1244/Senate Bill 830: Criminal Procedure – Criminal Injuries Compensation Board – Child Abuse Victims**

Provides additional time to file claims for criminal injuries compensation to victims of child abuse, including child sexual abuse. All child abuse victims will have until age 25 to file a claim, and the Board will be permitted to award claims after age 25 for good cause. Effective October 1, 2014.

**HB 963: Hospitals – Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations and Planning Committee**

Requires each hospital that provides emergency medical services to have a protocol to provide timely access to sexual assault medical forensic examination to a victim of an alleged rape or sexual offense who arrives at the hospital for treatment. The bill also establishes the Planning Committee to Implement Improved Access to Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations in Maryland. Effective date June 1, 2014.

**House Bill 807 – Criminal Law – Burglary in the First Degree – Home Invasion**

Establishes home invasion as one type of first-degree burglary, and increases the maximum penalty for breaking and entering a home with the intent to commit a crime of violence. Effective October 1, 2014.

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## Dorchester County Becomes Maryland's Eighth Safe Streets Initiative Site

GOCCP has awarded a grant to the Dorchester County Council to create a Safe Streets Initiative Site centered on the City of Cambridge and surrounding areas.

The GOCCP grant will fund a Safe Streets Coordinator, a criminal analyst who will work in the Cambridge Police Department, a prosecutor in the State's Attorney's Office, and maps made by the City of Cambridge GIS analyst. In addition, grant funding will pay for law enforcement overtime and computers and software systems. As in all of Maryland's Safe Streets Initiative Sites, the overall goal is collaboration and information-sharing across all levels of government to dramatically drive down crime by identifying and removing violent offenders from the community.

The Cambridge Police Department is the lead law enforcement agency for this Safe Streets Coalition Team, and will work with its partners in Dorchester County, including the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office, the Dorchester County Detention Center, the Dorchester County State's Attorney's Office, the Dorchester County Emergency Services Director, the Dorchester County Grants Office, the Hurlock Police Department, Maryland State Police, the Department of Juvenile Services, and Community Supervision of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services South Region.



"We have always had a good working relationship with our criminal justice partners in Dorchester County," said Chief Kenneth Malik. "The Safe Streets Initiative will help to structure information-sharing to target violent offenders, especially those for whom we have warrants, and then coordinate with the prosecutor to make sure these offenders are taken off the streets and put in jail."

Dorchester County is the latest Safe Streets Initiative site since the program began in 2008. The other Safe Street Initiative sites are Cecil and Harford Counties, and the cities of Annapolis, Salisbury, Cumberland, Hagerstown, and Frederick. All of the Safe Street sites have achieved significant reductions in crime.

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## Grants Awarded

July 1st marked the beginning of the 2015 Maryland State Fiscal Year, and the start of many of GOCCP's funding programs. Nearly three-quarters of a million dollars in funding was awarded to local jurisdictions under the [Sex Offender Compliance and Enforcement in Maryland \(SOCEM\) grant program](#).

GOCCP awarded nearly two million dollars in state funding to the [Safe Streets Initiative program](#). Dorchester County received its first Safe Streets grant in this cycle.

[GOCCP has awarded grants to four police DNA labs](#). These grants will fund the four law enforcement laboratories to process crime scene evidence in rape and sexual assault cases.

A total of \$928,478 in state funding has been awarded through the Gun Violence Reduction Grant (GVRG) program. These funds are used by local law enforcement agencies to implement strategies specifically intended to drive down gun related crime in the State. The GVRG grant program is administered by GOCCP and overseen by the Maryland Cease Fire Council, which is chaired by the Superintendent of the Maryland State Police.

GOCCP has awarded a total of \$613,723 in state funding through the Community Service Grant Program. Community service programs provide the Judiciary with a meaningful diversionary sentencing option that places adult and juvenile non-violent offenders into practical unpaid work assignments that provide social restitution and accountability while creating tangible benefits for Maryland citizens.

For up-to-date announcements on grant awards, please check our [Press Release webpage](#). To find Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) that are currently available, please look at the bottom of our [website homepage](#).

[A complete listing of a wide variety of federal and state funds that make resources available for public safety projects across Maryland can be found here.](#)

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